

Amendments to the claims:

Cancel claims 36-40, 42-46, 48 and 49.

Add new claims 50-52.

1-34. (Canceled)

1 35. (Currently Amended) A magnetic write head assembly which has a yoke portion
2 located between pole tip and back gap portions and a head surface and a track width at the pole tip
3 portion, with the head surface wherein the head surface forms having a track width and forming
4 a first vertical plane comprising:

5 first and second pole pieces;

6 a write gap located between the first and second pole pieces;

7 the second pole piece having first and second components wherein the first component is
8 located between the write gap and the second component and each of the first and second
9 components has a height into the head which extends from and which is oriented perpendicular to
10 said head surface;

11 the first component having a uniform thickness throughout its height into the head with the
12 height into the head forming a zero throat (ZTH) which lies in a second vertical plane that is
13 parallel to said first vertical plane;

14 the height into the head of the second component being greater than the height into the head
15 of the first component; [[and]]

16 each of the first and second components having said track width at the head surface[.];

17 the first component and a first insulation layer forming a first horizontal plane that extends
18 from the head surface entirely to the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular to the head
19 surface; and

20 the second component interfacing the first component and a first portion of the first
21 insulation layer at said first horizontal plane with a second portion of the first insulation layer
22 extending from the first component to the back gap.

36.- 40. (Canceled)

1 41. (Currently Amended) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 35
2 wherein the second component is a flat layer in the pole tip, yoke and back gap portions and
3 is magnetically connected to a back gap portion of the first pole piece layer.

42.- 46. (Canceled)

1 47. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk drive comprising:
2 at least one magnetic head assembly~~[[;]]~~ which has a yoke portion located between pole tip
3 and back gap portions and a head surface at the pole tip portion, with the head surface having a
4 track width and forming a first vertical plane;
5 the magnetic head assembly having a write head and a read head with the write head being
6 located on the read head;
7 the read head including:
8 ferromagnetic first and second shield layers;
9 a read sensor located between the first and second shield layers;
10 the write head having a head surface and a track width at the head surface with the
11 head surface forming a first vertical plane;
12 the write head comprising:
13 first and second pole pieces;
14 a write gap located between the first and second pole pieces;
15 the second pole piece having first and second components wherein the first
16 component is located between the write gap and the second component and each of the first
17 and second components has a height into the head which extends from and which is
18 oriented perpendicular to said head surface;
19 the first component having a uniform thickness throughout its height into the head
20 with the height into the head forming a zero throat (ZTH) which lies in a second vertical
21 plane that is parallel to said first vertical plane;

22 the height into the head of the second component being greater than the height into
23 the head of the first component; [[and]]
24 each of the first and second components having said track width at the head surface;
25 the first component and a first insulation layer forming a first horizontal plane that
26 extends from the head surface entirely to the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular
27 to the head surface; and
28 the second component interfacing the first component and the insulation layer at
29 said second horizontal plane with a second portion of the first insulation layer extending
30 from the first component to the back gap;
31 a housing;
32 a magnetic medium supported in the housing;
33 a support mounted in the housing for supporting the magnetic head assembly with said head
34 surface facing the magnetic medium so that the magnetic head assembly is in a transducing
35 relationship with the magnetic medium;
36 a motor for moving the magnetic medium; and
37 a processor connected to the magnetic head assembly and to the motor for exchanging
38 signals with the magnetic head assembly and for controlling movement of the magnetic medium.

48.- 49. (Canceled)

1 50. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 35 further
2 comprising:
3 a first coil layer; and
4 the first insulation layer being located entirely between the first coil layer and the second
5 component of the second pole piece.

1 51. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 50 further
2 comprising:

3 the second component and a second insulation layer forming a second horizontal plane
4 between the head surface and the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular to the head surface;

5 a second coil layer located directly on the second insulation layer at said second horizontal
6 plane;

7 the second pole piece having a seamless third component which is recessed from the head
8 surface and is stitched to the second component and a back gap portion of the first pole piece; and

9 the second coil layer being located between the second insulation layer and said seamless
10 third component.

1 52. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 41 further
2 comprising:

3 a first coil layer; and

4 the first insulation layer being located entirely between the first coil layer and the second
5 component of the second pole piece.